

UNCLASSIFIED

DECONTROL

EXCISE

Page: 1

<<<<.>>>>

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

PAGE 01 SAN JO 07155 030538Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-01
INM-07 INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02 USIE-00 JUSE-00 PRS-01
/027 W

-----017722 042314Z /72

R 022316Z JUN 89
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1381

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ SAN JOSE 07155

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 2/27/02 Exemption B6

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CASC, CS (HULL, JOHN)
SUBJECT: HULL REFUSES TO TESTIFY BEFORE NARCOTICS
COMMISSION

REF: SAN JOSE 6405 AND PREVIOUS

1. JOHN HULL, A U.S.-BORN COSTA RICAN RESIDENT WHO
FACES CHARGES OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND "HOSTILE
ACTS AGAINST THE STATE," APPEARED UNDER SUMMONS
BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL
COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS MAY 30 BUT DECLINED TO
TESTIFY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HULL'S
ATTORNEY JUAN JOSE SOBRADO TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT
HULL HAS THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO REFUSE TO
TESTIFY SINCE A CRIMINAL CASE IS PENDING AGAINST
HIM AND HE MIGHT INCRIMINATE HIMSELF DURING HIS
TESTIMONY. IN A MAY 29 LETTER TO COMMISSION MEMBER
LUIS MANUEL CHACON, SOBRADO HAD WARNED THAT HULL
WOULD NOT TESTIFY FOR THIS REASON; HE ALSO NOTED IN
HIS LETTER HULL'S POOR HEALTH. SOBRADO WROTE THAT
THE COMMISSION, IN CALLING ON HULL TO TESTIFY, HAD
INADVERTENTLY "YIELDED TO THE PRESSURES OF NEGATIVE
INTERESTS" LED BY COMMUNIST DEPUTY JAVIER SOLIS AND

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

PAGE 02 SAN JO 07155 030538Z

HAD SUCCEMDED TO "THE DICTATES OF MANAGUA."

n/a

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

2. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS, COMMISSION MEMBERS REJECTED THIS ACCUSATION AND DECLARED THAT HULL'S REFUSAL TO TESTIFY WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION. DEPUTIES ALSO VOICED CONCERN THAT HULL'S DECISION SET A BAD PRECEDENT FOR OTHERS CALLED BY THE COMMISSION. COMMISSION PRESIDENT ALBERTO FAIT DEFENDED THE COMMISSION'S RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT HULL TESTIFY AND CALLED ON HIM TO DO SO. LEGISLATORS REPORTEDLY MAY ASK THE MINISTERIO PUBLICO (PUBLIC PROSECUTOR) TO INTERVENE.

3. AMENDING HIS INITIAL EXPLANATION, SOBRADO TOLD THE PRESS JUNE 1 THAT HULL REFUSED TO TESTIFY BECAUSE THE COMMISSION, DUE TO ADJOURN WITHIN A WEEK, WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME IN WHICH HULL COULD MAKE A SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED PRESENTATION OF HIS CASE. HULL, SAID SOBRADO, IS READY TO TESTIFY, BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT HE RECEIVE "DUE PROCESS."

HINTON

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

NNNN

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~
UNCLASSIFIED